

Message Text

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R 291745Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3578

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4293

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJ: INTERSINDICAL DOMINATES NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS

REF: (A) LISBON 4223; (B) GONCALVES SPEECH, FBIS LONDON

280222Z, 280312Z, 280421Z AND 280514Z JUL 75

SUMMARY: NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS CONVENED BY COMMUNIST-DOMINATED INTERSINDICAL PROCEEDED WITHOUT SURPRISES. THE FEW OPPOSITION VOICES WERE STEAM-ROLLED BY VOCAL MAJORITY. DELEGATES ELECTED HAND-PICKED LIST OF CANDIDATES AND APPROVED STATUTES FOR A NATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATION. EMPHASIS ON WORKERS UNITY THROUGHOUT PROCEEDINGS INDICATES CONTINUATION
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OF PRESENT INTERSINDICAL POLICY TO COMPLETELY CONTROL

ORGANIZED LABOR. MILITANT POLICY PAPER APPROVED BY CONGRESS IS CONSISTENT WITH PCP OBJECTIVES. SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES CITES DEATH STRUGGLE AGAINST CAPITALISM, AND THE NEED FOR A TACTICAL ALLIANCE WITH THE PETTY BOURGEOISIE EN ROUTE TO TOTAL NATIONALIZATION AND A CLASSLESS SOCIETY. RESULTS OF CONGRESS LIMIT POSSIBILITIES FOR UNIONS OPPOSED TO PCP DOMINATION OF LABOR CONFEDERATION TO WORK FROM WITHIN. END SUMMARY

1. NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS CLOSED JULY 27 AFTER THREE-DAY SESSION. CONGRESS CONVENED BY INTERSINDICAL WHICH CLAIMS TO REPRESENT SOME 300 UNIONS HAVING A MEMBERSHIP OF 2,500,000 WORKERS, 78 PERCENT OF PORTUGAL'S LABOR FORCE. IN ACTUALITY, SOME 190 UNIONS ATTENDED THE CONGRESS OF WHICH ONLY 132 HAD VOTING RIGHTS.

2. DELEGATES APPROVED STATUTES PROPOSED BY INTERSINDICAL, AND "ELECTED" FOR THREE-YEAR TERM THE SINGLE SLATE OF 15 CANDIDATES (BACKED BY INTERSINDICAL) FOR THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT. SECRET BALLOTING HELD EVEN THOUGH ONLY ONE LIST PRESENTED. UNIONS CLAIMING TO REPRESENT 85 PERCENT OF WORKERS APPROVED LIST WHILE UNIONS CLAIMING TO REPRESENT 15 PERCENT EITHER VOTED AGAINST OR ABSTAINED.

3. CONGRESS REJECTED PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD HAVE ALLOWED UNIONS NOT AFFILIATED TO INTERSINDICAL A VOTE IN THE NATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATION IN THE FUTURE. IN ADDITION, STATUTES ADOPTED FACILITATE THE CONTROL OF DISSIDENT GROUPS BOTH WITHIN UNIONS AND WITHIN THE CONFEDERATION.

4. NO FOREIGN OBSERVERS OR DELEGATIONS WERE INVITED TO THE CONGRESS EVEN THOUGH SEVERAL WESTERN DIPLOMATS REQUESTED INVITATIONS. THE PRESS WAS ALSO EXCLUDED FROM WORKING SESSIONS. THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE CUBAN ARMED FORCES WAS A SPEAKER DURING A CLOSED SESSION.

5. CONGRESS APPROVED WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS AN "ORIENTATION AND ACTION" PAPER PREPARED BY INTERSINDICAL. MAJOR POINTS OF DOCUMENT ARE: FULL SUPPORT FOR REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL; COLLECTIVIZATION OF LARGE CAPITALIST PROPERTY; NATIONALIZATION
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OF INDUSTRY AND LARGE LAND HOLDINGS WITHOUT COMPENSATION; WORKERS CONTROL OF PRODUCTION; MOBILIZATION AND "CLARIFICATION" OF WORKERS; INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF UNION PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING AND CONTROL OF ECONOMY; PROMULGATION OF DECREE LAWS MAKING OWNERS, MANAGERS, AND THEIR DELEGATES PERSONALLY LIABLE FOR ACTS OF "ECONOMIC SABOTAGE;" TOTAL STATE CONTROL OF FOREIGN TRADE; AND THE PURGING AND RESTRUCTURING OF THE MINISTRIES DEALING WITH ECONOMIC MATTERS.

6. HIGH POINT OF CONGRESS WAS EMOTIONAL, RANTING SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES (REF B). IMPORTANT EXCERPTS AS FOLLOWS:

--TRADE UNION UNITY IS OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE. THE FIRST BLOW WE GAVE TO STATE MONOPOLIST CAPITALISM WAS APPROVAL OF TRADE UNION UNITY (I.E. SINGLE CONFEDERATION BY LAW). YOU MUST FIGHT INTENSELY AGAINST DIVISIONS IN YOUR RANKS.

--AS BRIGADIER CORVACHO SAID IN OPORTO, YOUR STRUGGLE IS A FIGHT TO THE DEATH AGAINST CAPITALISM. YOU MUST KEEP THIS WELL IN MIND. BIG CAPITAL, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL, RESORTS TO MULTIPLE MANEUVERS TO HALT THIS PROCESS.

--WE HAVE A PROBLEM TO RESOLVE; TO BRING SOCIAL AWARENESS IN ACCORD WITH THE MATERIAL CHANGES UNDERWAY IN OUR SOCIETY. WE HAVE NOT ACHIEVED THIS YET. SOCIAL AWARENESS IS STILL OUT OF STEP WITH THE CHANGES BEING AFFECTED BY THE DEATH BLOW WE HAVE STRUCK AGAINST CAPITALISM. WE HAVE DEALT A DEATH BLOW TO STATE MONOPOLISTIC CAPITALISM AND ITS ECONOMIC INFRA-STRUCTURE IS INDEED MORTALLY WOUNDED.

--THE AFM AND THE WORKERS FORM THE VANGUARD IN THE ADVANCE TOWARD SOCIALISM. THIS VANGUARD NEEDS ALLIANCES. THESE ALLIES MUST BE THE PETTY BOURGEOISIE, THE SMALL TRADERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS, AND THE SMALL AND MEDIUM FARMERS WE NEED TO ATTRACT THESE SECTIONS OF SOCIETY WHILE REMAINING FULLY AWARE THAT WE ARE THE VANGUARD OF THE PROCESS.

--WE MUST BE AWARE THAT AT THIS STAGE WE CANNOT NATIONALIZE ALL PRIVATE PROPERTY IN OUR COUNTRY. THAT TIME WILL COME. BUT THERE WILL BE AN INTERMEDIATE PERIOD WHICH WE MUST GO THROUGH WITH OUR ALLIES, BUT ALWAYS AWARE OF WHOSE ROLE IT IS TO SET THE PACE OF THE PROCESS.

THEN, AT THE END OF THAT INTERMEDIATE PERIOD, WE WILL HAVE THE SOCIETY WE WANT THE CLASSLESS SOCIETY, THE SOCIETY

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WITHOUT MAN'S EXPLOITATION BY MAN.

--THE FORCES OF CAPITALISM IN OUR COUNTRY ARE ATTEMPTING TO DIVIDE THE AFM BECAUSE IT IS A PROBLEM FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM. THE FORCES OF REACTION AND CAPITAL HAVE THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF REESTABLISHING A CAPITALIST SYSTEM.

--THE GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS OF POPULAR POWER HAVE A MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST REACTION. WE ARE GOING TO MODIFY THE APPARATUS OF THE STATE AND THE ROLE OF THE UNIONS IS VERY IMPORTANT.

7. INTERSINDICAL SUCCEEDED IN CARRYING OFF ITS NATIONAL LABOR CONGRESS AND IN SMOTHERING OPPOSITION VOICES. HOWEVER, OPPOSITION LABOR ELEMENTS WILL NOT ALLOW IT TO BE FORGOTTEN THAT THE CONGRESS WAS ILLEGALLY CONVENED, I.E., BEFORE THE PARTICIPATING UNIONS WERE

LEGALLY RECOGNIZED. CONVENING CONGRESS AT THIS TIME ALSO
A PATENT PLOY TO INSTALL PCP-DOMINATED LEADERSHIP IN THE
NATIONAL CONFEDERATION PRIOR TO THE HOLDING OF INTERNAL
ELECTIONS IN THE INDIVIDUAL UNIONS.

8. RESULTS OF CONGRESS MAKE IT CLEAR THAT UNIONS OPPOSED
TO COMMUNIST CONTROL OF INTERSINDICAL NOW HAVE LITTLE
CHANGE OF ALTERING CONFEDERATION'S ORIENTATION BY WORKING
FROM WITHIN. OUTCOME WILL REINFORCE PRESENT TENDENCY OF
THESE UNIONS TO REJECT AFFILIATION WITH INTERSINDICAL.

9. PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES'S ATTACKS ON MONOPOLISTIC
STATE CAPITALISM ARE SURPRISING INASMUCH AS THIS IS DIRECTION HE
IS LEADING PRESENT GOVERNMENT. HIS SPEECH COULD WELL BE A TACTICAL
PLOY TO ELICIT SUPPORT FROM EXTREME LEFT GROUPS IN THE FORMATION
OF A "POPULAR UNITY FRONT" (FUP), SEE LISBON 4184.

10. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.
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